

CLAIMS

Having thus described our invention, what we claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent is as follows:

1. A method for controlling personal use of a device having operation which is controllable by an electronic control circuit, the method comprising the steps of:

reading user-related data from a user-associated user authentication means for processing by a device operation control logic,

the method being characterized by

said user-related data comprising selective information concerning a user-desired type of operation of said device,

reading operation type specific data from said device for processing by said device operation control logic,

processing both data for providing a result,

deciding according to said result if a user-desired type of operation of said device will be allowed or not, and

enabling or preventing said desired type of operation of said device according to said decision.
2. The method according to claim 1, in which said step of processing user-related data and operation type specific

1 data is performed at least partly on said user-associated
2 authentication means by means of computing resources
3 comprised of said user-associated authentication means.

4 3. The method according to claim 1, comprising the step of
5 comparing current time information read from said device to
6 predetermined time limits stored on said user authentication
7 means for delimiting the duration of operation of said
8 device.

9 4. The method according to claim 1, for selectively controlling
10 operation of TV devices where the step of reading operation
11 type specific data comprises reading at least one of:
12 current date, current time, available channels,
13 show-view-codes.

14 5. The method according to claim 1, used for selectively
15 controlling operation of cars where the step of reading
16 operation type specific data comprises reading at least one
17 of: current date, current time, geographic position via a
18 GPS-interface, accumulated duration of use in a
19 predetermined time interval.

20 6. The method according to claim 1, for selectively controlling
21 operation of at least one computer device.

22 7. A device, the operation of which is controllable by an
23 electronic control circuit and being used as a controllable
24 object according to the method according to claim 1.

1 8. A user-authentication means arranged for interaction with an
2 operation control logic for a device according to claim 7,
3 for use in the method according to claim 1.

4 9. The user-authentication means according to claim 8, being
5 incorporated in a Smartcard.

6 10. The user-authentication means according to claim 9, wherein
7 said Smartcard being selected from a Java Card, a Smart Card
8 for Windows, or a Smart card based on the Multos operating
9 system.

10 11. Interface means comprising connection means to an electronic
11 control circuit controlling the operation of a device
12 according to claim 7 and intended for performing the method
13 steps comprising:
14
15 reading user-related data from a user-associated user
16 authentication means for processing by a device operation
17 control logic,
18
19 the method being characterized by
20
21 said user-related data comprising selective information
22 concerning a user-desired type of operation of said device,
23
24 reading operation type specific data from said device for
25 processing by said device operation control logic,
26
27 processing both data for providing a result,

1 deciding according to said result if a user-desired type of
2 operation of said device will be allowed or not, and

3 enabling or preventing said desired type of operation of
4 said device according to said decision.

5 12. An interface means according to claim 11, arranged for
6 communicating with user-authentication means arranged for
7 interaction with an operations control logic.

8 13. Interface means according to claim 12, characterized by
9 being a Set-top box for being added-on a device being
10 subjectable to the method steps.

11 14. A system comprising means for performing the method steps
12 according to claim 1.

13 15. An article of manufacture comprising a computer usable
14 medium having computer readable program code means embodied
15 therein for causing controlled personal use of a device
16 having operation which is controllable by an electronic
17 control circuit, the computer readable program code means in
18 said article of manufacture comprising computer readable
19 program code means for causing a computer to effect the
20 steps of claim 1.

21 16. An article of manufacture comprising a computer usable
22 medium having computer readable program code means embodied
23 therein for causing controlled personal use of a device
24 having operation which is controllable by an electronic
25 control circuit, the computer readable program code means in
26 said article of manufacture comprising computer readable

1 program code means for causing a computer to effect the
2 steps of claim 2.

3 17. An article of manufacture comprising a computer usable
4 medium having computer readable program code means embodied
5 therein for causing controlled personal use of a device
6 having operation which is controllable by an electronic
7 control circuit, the computer readable program code means in
8 said article of manufacture comprising computer readable
9 program code means for causing a computer to effect the
10 steps of claim 3.

11 18. A program storage device readable by machine, tangibly
12 embodying a program of instructions executable by the
13 machine to perform method steps for causing controlled
14 personal use of a device having operation which is
15 controllable by an electronic control circuit, said method
16 steps comprising the steps of claim 1.

17 19. A program storage device readable by machine, tangibly
18 embodying a program of instructions executable by the
19 machine to perform method steps for causing controlled
20 personal use of a device having operation which is
21 controllable by an electronic control circuit, said method
22 steps comprising the steps of claim 4.

23 20. A program storage device readable by machine, tangibly
24 embodying a program of instructions executable by the
25 machine to perform method steps for causing controlled
26 personal use of a device having operation which is
27 controllable by an electronic control circuit, said method
28 steps comprising the steps of claim 5.